

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 135469  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA:RBOAKLEY:KA  
APPROVED BY S:AHOUGHTON  
S/S:FWISNER

-----003506 270421Z /13

P R 262311Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
JCS WASHDC  
CINCPAC  
CINCPACAF  
CINCPACFLT  
CINCPACREPPHIL  
CG 13TH AF

S E C R E T STATE 135469

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN ROMULO AND THE SECRETARY

SUMMARY: SECRETARY VANCE, ACCOMPANIED BY DAS OAKLEY, MET  
PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO ON MAY 25 AT THE UN.  
ROMULO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA,  
AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ AND AMBASSADOR MANOLO. THE TALKS  
FOCUSSED ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH MUTUAL  
AGREEMENT TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE FORMER AND ROMULO PLEADING  
FOR GREATER U.S. UNDERSTANDING ON THE LATTER. END SUMMARY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 135469

1. AFTER EXCHANGING GREETINGS, THE SECRETARY ASKED ROMULO  
WHERE MATTERS STAND ON THE BASE TALKS, INDICATING OUR  
DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY. ROMULO REPLIED THAT THE  
PHILIPPINE SIDE IS READY, ITS MILITARY PANELS HAD BEEN  
STUDYING THE ISSUES AND HAD RECEIVED APPROVAL TO BEGIN  
TALKS. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE WILL INSTRUCT OUR  
MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES TO PROCEED.

2. MENDOZA NOTED THAT IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES OF POSITION WOULD CERTAINLY ARISE DURING THE TALKS ON SUBIC BAY WATERS AND THE SUBIC WATERSHED. THE GOP POSITION IS TO PROVIDE WHAT THE U.S. NAVY NEEDS TO OPERATE WITHOUT HINDERANCE IN SUBIC BAY BUT NOT TO INCLUDE THE WATERS AS A U.S. FACILITY

WHILE THE USG HAS INSISTED UPON THE LATTER POSITION. ON THE WATERSHED, THE GOP WANTS JOINT MANAGEMENT AND IS EVEN READY TO SET THE AREA ASIDE AS A RESTRICTED AREA BUT NOT TO INCLUDE IT IN THE U.S. FACILITY, WHILE THE USG HAS INSISTED UPON THE LATTER. OAKLEY REPLIED THAT THE U.S. SIDE IS PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT ITS PRECISE NEEDS FOR SUBIC BAY WATERS AND THE WATERSHED, AS THE GOP WISHES, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ITS POSITION ON PRINCIPLE. THE SECRETARY AND ROMULO AGREED THAT TALKS SHOULD START RIGHT AWAY ON THIS BASIS.

3. MENDOZA THEN RAISED CRIMINAL JURISDICTION, SAYING THAT THIS POSES SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE GOP ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN SET ASIDE AS TOO TOUGH TO RESOLVE. THE SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT WE CANNOT GO BEYOND OUR WORLDWIDE POSITION WHICH IS ONE OF RESERVING TO THE USG THE ULTIMATE JUDGMENT ON DUTY STATUS. ROMULO AND MENDOZA REPLIED THAT THIS IS VERY HARD FOR THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE TO ACCEPT SINCE UP UNTIL 1965 THE ORIGINAL USG-GOP AGREEMENT HAD PROVIDED FOR  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 135469

THE GOP TO ARBITRATE ANY DISAGREEMENT ON DUTY STATUS. THUS THE USG APPEARS TO BE TAKING A MORE DISCRIMINATORY POSITION. THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED THAT BOTH SIDES SEEK BETTER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO MINIMIZE DISPUTES AND GIVE THE GOP MORE OF A ROLE, PENDING AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC ISSUE WHICH SHOULD REMAIN OFF THE TABLE. HE REPEATED OUR INABILITY TO GO BEYOND THE BASIC WORLDWIDE POSITION. ROMULO AND MENDOZA AGREED ON THIS APPROACH. MENDOZA NOTED THAT THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN DIFFERENCES DUE TO MORE COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES IN SCREENING INCIDENTS BEFORE EITHER SIDE MAKES A JUDGMENT AS TO HOW THEY SHOULD BE HANDLED.

4. SECRETARY VANCE NOTED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES AND WITH THE ENTIRE TRIP. THE JOINT STATEMENT HE AND PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD ISSUED ON BASES HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT IN THE WHOLE REGION AND HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED WHEN THE VICE PRESIDENT STOPPED IN THAILAND, INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA. ROMULO OBSERVED THAT MARCOS HAD OVERRULED HIS DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND CABINET, BOTH OF WHOM WERE OPPOSED TO THE

STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY THE IDEA OF RECOGNIZING THAT THE BASES HAVE MUTUAL BENEFITS. MARCOS, THE STATESMAN, HAD TOLD HIS LIEUTENANTS THAT HE WAS EXERCISING HIS PREROGATIVES AS PRESIDENT EVEN IF IT WERE NOT POLITICALLY

POPULAR AT HOME. UNFORTUNATELY, ACCORDING TO ROMULO, THE U.S. CONGRESS AND PUBLIC DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT MARCOS REALLY MEANS FOR THE U.S. AND FOR THE REGION. ALL THEY SEE IS THE DISTORTED PICTURE OF PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS PRESENTED BY BIASED JOURNALISTS WHO ARE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE OPPOSITION AND IGNORE THE GOP.

5. ROMULO ELABORATED AT LENGTH ON MISTAKEN PERCEPTIONS OF PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS, STRESSING THAT CULTURAL AND SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 135469

ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES PRODUCED DIFFERENT HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES FOR THE U.S. AND THE PHILIPPINES, E.G., A FULL STOMACH TAKES PRIORITY IN THE LATTER WHILE FREE EXPRESSION MIGHT TAKE PRIORITY IN THE FORMER. HE DEFENDED THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS AS FAIR, EVINCING THE DEFEAT OF GOVERNMENT-BACKED CANDIDATES IN SOME AREAS OUTSIDE MANILA TO SUPPORT HIS ARGUMENT. ROMULO ADDED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD HANDLED THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE VERY WELL AND HIS TALKS WITH MARCOS ON THIS SUBJECT AS WELL AS OTHERS HAD BEEN POSITIVE. THE U.S. MUST NOT APPEAR TO PREACH OR DICTATE TO THE PHILIPPINES ON THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR NEWSOM HAD UNDERSTOOD HOW TO RELATE TO THE PHILIPPINES AND HAD DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB. THE SECRETARY SAID AMBASSADOR MURPHY WOULD ALSO DO AN EXCELLENT JOB. ROMULO SAID HE HAD HEARD VERY GOOD THINGS ABOUT MURPHY FROM THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM.

6. THE SECRETARY AND OAKLEY REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING PROGRESS ON MARCOS' EARLIER STATEMENTS ABOUT DUE PROCESS, RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, CIVILIAN TRIBUNALS AND THE TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS, GENERALLY, IN DEMONSTRATING TO AMERICANS THAT THE GOP IS TRULY CONCERNED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THE DIMINUTION OF TORTURE IS A POSITIVE STEP WHICH MAY NOT HAVE RECEIVED ENOUGH RECOGNITION IN THE U.S. ROMULO ADDED THAT MARCOS HAD BEEN VERY TOUGH ON HIS GENERALS IN ORDERING THEM TO STOP TORTURE. HE REITERATED THE NEED FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING FROM THE U.S. ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

7. THE SECRETARY TOLD ROMULO WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON THIS SUMMER. THE PRESIDENT IS EAGER TO MEET THEM AND SECRETARY SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 135469

BLUMENTHAL AND OTHER CABINET MEMBERS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE.  
WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ASEAN. ROMULO SAID HE WOULD  
BE ON HAND AND HOPED IT WOULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE135469  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RBOAKLEY:KA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780224-0248  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780512/aaaaajvu.tel  
**Line Count:** 180  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b1823895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2542412  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEETING BETWEEN ROMULO AND THE SECRETARY SUMMARY: SECRETARY VANCE, ACCOMPANIED BY DAS OAKLEY, MET PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO ON MAY 25 AT T  
**TAGS:** PGOV, RP, (ROMULO, CARLOS P), (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** MANILA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b1823895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014